

Appl. No. 09/764,622
Amdt. Dated March 8, 2005
Reply to Office action of January 25, 2005
Attorney Docket No. P12683/27943-00397USP1
EUS/J/P/05-6045

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An arrangement for combining narrowband and broadband transport mechanisms in a communications network, comprising:
a first ~~node~~ network switch, said first ~~node~~ network switch configured to provide call control functions and connection control functions wherein said connection control ~~function is~~ functions are provided using a narrowband switch fabric and wherein said call control functions are provided using call control applications; and
a second network switch ~~node~~, said second network switch ~~node~~ connected to said first network switch ~~node~~ by at least one link, said second network switch ~~node~~ configured to provide connection control functions wherein said connection control ~~function is~~ functions are provided using a broadband switch fabric, and wherein said call control applications within said first network switch further provides call control functions for said second network switch by providing instructions to said broadband switch fabric over said one link ~~said second node adapted to rely on said first node for call control functions over said broadband switch fabric~~.
2. (Currently Amended) The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said first network switch ~~node~~ is directly connected to said second network switch ~~node~~ by the at least one link.
3. (Currently Amended) The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said second network switch ~~node~~ does not provide call control functions and solely relies on said first network switch for providing said call control functions.

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4. (Currently Amended) The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said first network switch node includes a synchronous transfer mode (STM) switch, and said second network switch node includes an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) switch.
5. (Currently Amended) The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said first network switch node and said second network switch node function together as a single logical node within the communications network.
6. (Original) The arrangement according to claim 5, wherein the single logical node comprises a hybrid switch.
7. (Currently Amended) The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said first network switch node is further connected to a time division multiplexed (TDM) network.
8. (Currently Amended) The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said second network switch node is further connected to a time division multiplexed (TDM) network and an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) network.
- 9-10. (Cancelled)
11. (Currently Amended) A dual-node system for combining narrowband and broadband transport mechanisms in a communications network, comprising:
a first ~~node, said first node~~ network switch, said first network switch including switching intelligence for providing call control functions and narrowband switching fabric for providing call connection functions;
a second ~~node, said second node~~ network switch, said second network switch connected to said first network switch node by at least one link, said second network switch node including broadband switching fabric for providing call connection functions and adapted to transceive control signaling information over the at least one link from

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said switching intelligence within said first network switch node for providing call control functions over said broadband switching fabric; and

wherein said first ~~node and said second node~~ network switch and said second network switch function as a single logical node within the communications network.

12. (Original) The dual-node system according to claim 11, wherein the at least one link comprises a first link and a second link, each of the first link and the second link operating in accordance with an ethernet protocol.

13. (Currently Amended) The dual-node system according to claim 11, wherein the signaling information received from said first network switch node is utilized by said second network switch node in order to switch an incoming call using the switching fabric thereof.

14. (Currently Amended) The dual-node system according to claim 11, wherein said first network switch node comprises a synchronous transfer mode (STM) switch, and said second network switch node comprises an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) switch.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) The dual-node system according to claim 11, wherein said first network switch node is further directly connected to a time division multiplexed (TDM) network, and said second network switch node is further connected to the TDM network and an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) network.

17. (Original) The dual-node system according to claim 16, wherein the TDM network comprises at least one of a public switched telephone network (PSTN), a public land mobile network (PLMN), and an integrated services digital network (ISDN).

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18. (Currently Amended) A method for combining narrowband and broadband transport mechanisms in a communications network, comprising the steps of:

providing a first network switch node having switching intelligence for providing call control functionality and a narrowband switch fabric for providing connection control functionality ~~wherein said connection control functionality is provided using a narrowband switch fabric;~~

providing a second network switch node having a broadband switch fabric for providing connection control functionality ~~wherein said connection control functionality is provided using a broadband switch fabric;~~

connecting the first network switch to the second network node ~~to the second node;~~ and

providing call control functionality within said second network switch by said switching intelligence within said first network switch providing call control instructions to said broadband switch fabric within said second network switch.

~~sharing, by the first network switch node, the call control functionality with the second network switch node by providing call control functionality over said broadband switch fabric.~~

19. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of: transmitting, by the second network switch node, incoming signaling information related to an incoming call to the first network switch node.

20. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 19, further comprising the steps of: receiving, by the first network switch node, the incoming signaling information related to the incoming call from the second network switch node; executing, by the first network switch node, call control functionality with respect to the incoming signaling information related to the incoming call to produce outgoing signaling information; sending, by the first network switch node, the outgoing signaling information to the second network switch node.

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21. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 20, further comprising the steps of: receiving, by the second network switch node, the outgoing signaling information from the first network switch node; switching, by the second network switch node, the incoming call responsive to the outgoing signaling information to thereby forward an outgoing call from the second network switch node.

22-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) A system for combining narrowband applications with broadband transport, comprising:

a first ~~node~~, said first ~~node~~ network switch, said first network switch including call control logic for performing call control functionality, a synchronous transfer mode (STM) switch, and first connection control logic for performing connection control functionality for said first network switch over said STM switch node;

a second network switch node, said second network switch node connected to said first network switch node and including an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) switch and second connection control logic for performing connection control functionality for said second network switch over said ATM switch node, said second network switch node adapted to switch communications via the ATM switch under the control of the second connection control logic responsive to control signaling information received from the call control logic of said first network switch node;

an ATM network, said ATM network directly connected to said second network switch node for exchanging communications between said ATM network and said second network switch node; and

a time division multiplex (TDM) network, said TDM network directly connected to said first network switch node for exchanging communications between said TDM network and said first network switch node.

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27. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 26, wherein said TDM network is also directly connected to said second network switch node for exchanging communications between said TDM network and said second network switch node.

28. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 26, further comprising: another TDM network, said another TDM network directly connected to said second network switch node for exchanging communications between said another TDM network and said second network switch node.